

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 /084 W

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R 251230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4597

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0478

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR, SF

SUBJ :FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S

RELATIONS WITH AFRICA AND WESTERN EUROPE

1. DURING DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT APRIL 24 ON APPROPRIATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTER HILGARD MULLER PLACED EMPHASIS ON WHAT HE TERMED WAS SUCCESS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTACTS WITH REST OF BLACK AFRICA. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MANY DIFFICULTIES STILL FACE SOUTH AFRICA'S 'PEACE OFFENSIVE'. REFERRING TO OAU FM MEETING IN DAR, HE SAID THAT IT HAD SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AT THAT MEETING THAT 'THE DOOR SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION,' OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM.

2. AFTER LAUDING FOREIGN RELATIONS EFFORTS OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, MULLER PLEADED FOR PARLIAMENTARY UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSITION TO, IN ESSENCE, JOIN IN A BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO

FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT OPPOSITION SHOULD BE EXERCISING RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT DO OR SAY THINGS WHICH COULD DISRUPT PROGRESS OF PEACE OFFENSIVE. ((IMMEDIATELY AFTER MULLER SPOKE, OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, JAPIE BASSON, CRITICISED PRIME MINISTER FOR HAVING ATTACKED LESOTHO IN HIS RECENT SPEECH. BASSON ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE KNOWN ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING SOUTH WEST AFRICA.))

3. MULLER CLAIMED THAT IN WESTERN EUROPE THERE HAD BEEN 'A REDUCTION IN THE ATTACKS' ON SOUTH AFRICA. FACTORS WHICH HAD LED TO BETTER RELATIONS, HE SAID, WERE INCREASED DESIRE OF EUROPEANS TO TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA ('A TRADE OFFENSIVE'), POLITICAL STABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH AFRICA'S STRATEGIC POSITION ON TIP OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, ITS MINERAL WEALTH, RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S 'PEACE OFFENSIVE' IN AFRICA, APPRECIATION OF SAG'S 'EFFORTS TOWARD HUMAN DIGNITY' IN SOUTH AFRICA, GROWING STRENGTH OF COMMUNISM IN WORLD, AND REACTION AGAINST UNITED NATIONS' IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: MULLER'S SPEECH CONTAINED LITTLE OF INTEREST EXCEPT, PERHAPS, SAG'S APPARENTLY SELF-SATISFIED VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0342
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750413/aaaaamhl.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: :FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICA AND WESTERN EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, SF, (MULLER, HILGARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006